

### NSIDE THIS EDITION

## BUYER'S GET SAFETY NET

Home buyers in B.C. now have a safety net after making an offer to purchase.

#### Restoring Joseph Creek

Cranbrook approves reconstruction of Joseph Creek channel.

## SIMPLIFYING PAID SICK LEAVE

The province makes an amendment to the recent legislation surrounding sick leave.

#### Relief for Drivers

ICBC will be providing rebates to drivers.

Thevoice<u>cv.ca</u>

**The Voice** 

of the Columbia Valley

Your voice, your valley, your magazine

# LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Spring is upon us which brings wildlife out into our communities more so than the winter months. It's important to ensure you're taking the necessary precautions to prevent wildlife from being attracted to your property. One of our articles this week shares ways you can prevent bears from being attracted to your property so be sure to check it out!

It's important for both the safety of your property and wildlife that the necessary precautions are taken to prevent them from eating garbage or getting into anything harmful to their environment. If you encounter wildlife near your property contact BC Wildlife Service at 1-800-663-9453 for support and/or guidance.





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#### How are we doing?

The Volunteers of the Columbia Valley Voices Online Magazine are dedicated to providing content that is generated and supported by our valley residents.

We welcome and encourage all communication - we want to know how we're doing!

Send us a note on Facebook or Instagram @thevoicecv

OF

by email to news@thevoiceca.ca



# Buyer's Get **Safety Net**

Home buyers in B.C. now have a safety net after making an offer to purchase.

British Columbia has once again become the first province to put forth a change not seen anywhere else in the country. An amendment to the Property Law Act has been proposed by the provincial government which outlines the development of a cooling-off period for home buyers. The purpose of the amendment is to balance the risk of buying a home in the current real-estate market. In a statement <u>reported by The Globe and</u> <u>Mail</u>, B.C. Finance Minister Selina Robinson shared that these new measures were brought to the table due to concerns of the intensely competitive real-estate market in some areas of the province. Home buyers have found themselves being forced to submit offers on a home without taking the proper precautions to ensure their interests. This cooling-off period allows home buyers to consider their offers more carefully and ensure financing and home inspections are in place.

The province has stated that over 70% of offers made in B.C.'s real estate market have been made without conditions being

laid out. This can lead to major repair and renovation costs on the home after the purchase or losing a deposit should financing fall through for the buyer. More details surrounding the amendment, including the amount of time the cooling off period will last and what penalties come from retracting an offer are expected to be released in the spring. A report is being waited on by the finance minister which will help support the decisions made surrounding the cooling-off period.

British Columbians trying to buy a home in these market conditions are frustrated. The status quo is only working for people who profit from an overheated market.

B.C. Finance Minister Selina Robinson

# **Protecting Home Buyers**

Buying a home is a huge investment and a massive undertaking. It's important to protect your investment and ensure it's in your best interests, just like you would anything else. With the rising tides of the real estate market, many home buyers have had to forego those interests in an effort to have the most enticing bid on a property. In the same Globe and Mail article, Helene Barton the executive director of the Home Inspectors Association BC shares her applause for the amendment to the Property Law Act. She has heard from many devastated families who rushed into a purchase without basic conditions such as a home inspection, only to find themselves left with having to deal with the problems they face.

## The Opposition to the Amendment

Opposition was received from the B.C. Real Estate Association, though it was agreed the current real estate market conditions are untenable. A cooling-off period was first proposed last November and the association provided alternative proposals with included a mandatory "pre-offer period" of a minimum of five business days from when a property was first listed.

Across Canada, the average home price is forecast to rise by 14.3 per cent in 2022, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association. Record-setting prices on homes reflects what it calls an unprecedented imbalance of housing supply and demand.

Globe and Mail Journalist Justine Hunter

Andy Yan the director of The City Program at Simon Fraser University stated in an interview <u>reported by the Globe and Mail</u> that he does not expect this new cooling-off period to have an impact on housing prices. Though he is sure this will improve consumer protection surrounding home purchasers.

Additional measures have already been taken by the provincial government including the vacancy tax, speculation tac, and foreign buyers' tax which was meant to dampen the housing market. Property values continue to rise across the province and smaller communities have also seen a significant growth to their populations. Housing Minister David Eby has also mentioned he is considering options in the provincial legislature that will override municipalities that refuse to approve social housing or housing options near public transit.

# Flashlight Egg funt Monday, April 18th 8:30pm

# **Pothole Park Invermere**

# Egg Hunt meets Awesomeness

when teens hunt at Pothole Park in Invermere with flashlights for easter eggs filled with candy! Pizza dinner and beverages will be provided. Participants grade 6 & up will need to bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. Meet at the washrooms at Pothole Park.



R.S.V.P. in advance

Angela Miller 250-341-5216 or by email at columbiavalleyyouthnetwork@hotmail.com



# VALLEY PROMOTIONS









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Cranbrook approves reconstruction of Joseph Creek channel.

Correcting flooding and erosion issues along a section of Joseph Creek will commence by City of Cranbrook workers. The issue being presented at Joseph Creek is the result of reduced channel capacity and encroachment from non-native willow trees.

Fisheries and Ocans Canada (DFO) brought down the authorization of the project at 15th Avenue South and 1st Street South This project comes after several years of consultation with the Ktunaxa and ?agam local governments, the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The work is expected to begin taking place in July and August though vegetation will begin to be removed in April as the DFO permit is only effective between April 1st and April 22nd.

As <u>reported by myeastkootenaynow.com</u>, Mike Matejka roads and infrastructure manager shared the following comments on the project.

"The vegetation removal will include cutting down the non-native golden willow that make up the majority of vegetation along the project area. The willow removal work must take place in April per the requirements of the authorization to avoid any potential bird nesting impacts.

Once the creek channel work is complete the site will be re-planted with a diverse range of native trees and plants that are much better suited for the creek function and habitat," said Matejka. "The final site restoration will be similar in nature to the riparian habitat improvements that have taken place at Kinsmen Park Idlewild Park and in immediately downstream of Victoria Avenue."

Pieces of the project will have an impact on residential access and on-street parking which notices will be provided once that work is underway. While the focus of the project is towards flood and erosion mitigation, Cranbrook and its partners show intent to ensure this work leads to a healthier and more diverse environment. THE DISTRICT OF INVERMERE

PRESENTS



# Watch for Bears

Spring is upon us which means bears are coming out of hibernation.

If you've lived in any community across the Columbia Valley for any period of time, it should be no surprise that there is wildlife all around us. With spring returning comes the increased sightings of bears across the valley.

WildSafeBC is reminding everyone to secure your garbage as bears are coming out of hibernation and will be on the hunt for easy meals. Bear encounters can be easily avoided by taking the necessary precautions to prevent them from coming to your property. Keeping garbage in hardto-reach areas and keeping your property clean of anything that would attract wildlife is essential. Not only to the survival of your property but for the wildlife itself.

WildSafeBC has provided tips on how to keep bears out of your garbage:

- Store waste inside whenever possible and don't leave bags of garbage outside for wildlife to get into.
- Invest in bear-resistant waste bins and keep them secured by using a solid object with a chain or cable.
- You can consider freezing any food items that may cause a smell that attracts wildlife until collection day.

It is illegal to intentionally feed a dangerous animal or leave attractants out with the intent of feeding wildlife, according to the Wildlife Act. This includes leaving attractants such as good out in the open where they may be easily accessible for wildlife. The fine can be up to \$345 for people who are caught to be feeding wildlife or attracting them.

Should you encounter a bear or other dangerous wildlife, WildSafeBC advises to stay inside and call **1-800-663-9453** 









# VALLEY PROMOTIONS

BREAKING

# FIRE IN PANORAMA

The Panorama Fire Department responded to a call on March 27th where there was an electrical odour and smoke inside the Panorama Mountain Resort.

The source of the issue was found swiftly and determined to be electrical in nature. The building was ventilated allowing guests to return to the resort safely.

## WILDFIRE MITIGATION

NEWS

City of Cranbrook has moved their wildfire mitigation work to Park Royal following the work that was completed in the Idlewild Park area last week.

The work is being completed alongside the provincial government and FireSmart BC. The city is asking for the public to stay away from the area while work is underway.





## CRANBROOK MAYOR FOR

**RE-ELECTION** 

Cranbrook Mayor Lee Pratt announced at Monday night's city council meeting that he will be running for a third term in the upcoming municipal election.

He stated at the council meeting that it is his vision to keep up development in Cranbrook and turn it into a more desirable place to live. Residents will be able to vote on October 15th in their local election.

## SCAM IN KIMBERLEY

RCMP officials have warned of a scam surrounding someone posing as the Kimberley Gymnastics Club and asking for money in the form of gift cards.

E-mails were sent out claiming to be the club which are not being sent from Kimberley Gymnastics Club. Anyone who receives these emails are asked to not respond to them.





# Want to improve your English?

Free English Language Classes are available!



CBAL's English classes are open to permanent residents and other newcomers to Canada.

To register, email wvsettlement@cbal.org or call/text 250-341-7188.



TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT: Jennifer Pratschke, Settlement Worker wvsettlement@cbal.org C or text 250-341-7188

www.cbal.org









# VALLEY PROMOTIONS



# Every Tuesday 9:30-11:30am

Starting May 17th we would like to invite seniors to the farm every Tuesday between the hours of 9:30-11:30am. During this time you will have the opportunity to visit farm animals, have tea or coffee, enjoy the garden and its different stages throughout the season.

> Visit Farm Animals \* Seniors social with tea or coffee \* Enjoy the outdoors



**By Donation** 

# Simplifying Paid Sick Leave

The province makes an amendment to the recent legislation surrounding sick leave.

The B.C. government has amended the B.C. Employment Standards Act to strengthen paid sick leave legislation and make it simpler for businesses to implement. The changes have been introduced by Minister of Labour Harry Bains which addresses two issues that were raised due to the employerpaid sick leave which came into effect on January 1, 2022.

British Columbia became the first province in the country to implement a minimum standard of five paid sick days per year after data from research and experience in jurisdictions across the province. An extensive public consultation process was had to determine the best way to implement the updated legislation.

The first issue that was brought up by business groups was the concern of using an "employment year" instead of a "calendar year" to establish the employee's entitlement to annual paid sick leave. As employees have fluctuating start dates. and tracking monitoring this has shown to be cumbersome for many businesses. To make implementation easier for businesses, the act has been amended to reference "calendar year" instead of "employment year" to standardize the entitlement period for all employees, regardless of their start date. The change will not have an impact on the total number of paid sick leave days available as it remains at five.

The second concern that was risen surrounded employees being excluded from the full five paid sick days due to existing language in collective agreements. To ensure employees are entitled to their sick leave option, an amendment to collective agreements has been made as well. The updated changes will take effect upon Royal Assent which is expected before the end of the current legislative session.



# Free Personal Tax Filing at the Radium Library-Beginning February 22, 2022!

Free tax clinics are available for eligible individuals through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

This free personal tax preparation service is available for individuals who do not exceed the BC Low-Income Value. Please go to our website to review full eligibility criteria, or call the library at 250-347-2434 to inquire!

## If you qualify for this service, you can drop off your income tax documents in-person at the library. Please bring government issued ID with you. (It is required to submit your forms)

- Drop off available: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays. Bring your documents to our front desk anytime during open hours (11:00am-4:00pm)
- We will ask you to fill out a quick intake form before you submit your documents
- Tax returns will be completed by our volunteer tax assistant off-site, and we will notify you when it is ready for pickup
- Phone and in-person appointments with volunteer tax assistant available upon request

## The Clinic will end on April 21, 2022.



#### Radium Hot Springs Public Library 4863 Stanley St Radium Hot Springs, British Columbia V0A 1M0 | 250-347-2434 https://radium.bc.libraries.coop/



# Relief for Drivers

ICBC will be providing rebates to drivers.

Gas prices and inflation continue to sky rocket past record highs and it's had an obvious impact on the lives of many British Columbians. ICBC will be providing drivers across the province with a one-time relief rebate cheque. Those who had basic auto insurance through the month of February will receive \$110 and commercial ICBC customers will receive \$165.

In a statement <u>reported by</u> <u>myeastkootenaynow.com</u>, B.C. Premier John Horgan shares his comments on the global impact the Ukraine/Russia war is causing here at home.

"People are facing increased costs through no fault of their own, but as a

chain reaction that started with [President Vladimir] Putin's illegal war in Ukraine. As a result of our work to fix ICBC, we're in a position to put money back in people's pockets to help a little with these increased costs."

It's expected that eligible drivers will begin to receive their rebate cheque in May should they be registered for direct deposit with ICBC. Those who are not will receive their cheques to them in June. These rebates are able to be issued by ICBC because of their forecast net income of \$1.9 billion for their fiscal year ending on March 31st.



CNC By Design Yau dream II, we will huld it All products are custom mode to order Arian Davidule (250) 342-5959





# **Donation Drop Off Hours:**

Sunday- 9am to12pm Wednesday- 9am to5pm Thursday- 9am to5pm



# VALLEY PROMOTIONS





Coaches Ashley and Christian have a combined 17 years experience. We offer both adult and kids Brazilian Jiu jitsu programs, as well as women's options for both Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and self defense.

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# VALLEY PROMOTIONS



# Have A Little Nightmare

A spooky game that will fuel your inner child.

Have you ever been a fan of movies like Little Monsters or other movies that showcase children and their fears? Then do I have the game for you!

I recently scrolled through my Games with Gold options and found one I had never played before that looked like a bunch of fun. That game is Little Nightmares, a puzzle platformer horror adventure game which was developed by Tarsier Studios and published by Bandai Namco. The game is available across all consoles and is set in a mysterious world following the journey of Six, a hungry little girl who is trying to escape the Maw.



This game broke the mold for me when it comes to puzzle platformers. I generally stay far away from the genre because that's just not the kind of gameplay style I enjoy. Though after seeing the graphics and aesthetic of the game, I couldn't help but at least run through it for an hour and give it a chance. I am so glad I did! The game itself takes you on a journey that feels right out of a horror movie from your childhood. You spend your time navigating through different rooms and determining how you can get to the next one and eventually escape the twisted nightmare you're a part of.

I was also reminded of another indie horror style game; Bendy and the Ink Machine and Limbo. The puzzles themselves can be challenging at times, though are actually quite simple if you don't overthink it. The game itself is a 2.5D world which means it is 3D, though still somewhat of a sidescroller though there are aspects where you can also move up and down depending on the room you're in.

The other thing about this game is there are no combat elements. You are left completely helpless as you go through the game only relying on your environment and stealth to make it through to the end. This game is full of charm, scares, creeps, and fun. For those who enjoy horror elements in a game and don't mind having to solve some puzzles to get through it, I highly recommend checking this game out.



# **Ideas 2 Go**

Pick up available in Canal Flats, Invermere and Radium Free STEAM based take home kits for children ages 6-10 years.

Please email <u>wvcoordinator@cbal.org</u> to register for your kit.

Sponsored by the Invermere Legion





TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT: Sandy Kalesnikoff, Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator www.cbal.org & 250-409-4251 () www.cbal.org



Columbia Columbia

# **A LITTLE FUN**

#### Across

 With the bow, in music; 5- Grog ingredient; 8- Writer Sinclair; 13- Harvest; 14- Gag reflex?; 15- India's first prime minister; 16-City near Phoenix; 17- Weight; 18- Severe; 19- Assault; 21- Broadcast; 22- Give rest; 23- Wind dir.; 24- Mimic: 28- Reformulate; 30-Secured, as victory; 31- Sunday seat; 32-Muse of lyric poetry; 33- Lawyer Dershowitz; 34- Memory unit; 35- Pertaining to the soul; 38- Gillette brand; 41- Wings; 42- Sensitive spots: 46- Bee follower: 47- Among: 48-Hidden; 49- Chief; 51- Smoking alternative; 52- Canonized Mlle .: 53- Twosome: 54-Ensure: 57- Japanese three-line verse: 59-Boris Godunov, for one: 60- 1994 Costner role; 61- Senator Specter; 62- A single time; 63- To \_\_\_\_ (perfectly); 64- Rendezvous; 65-Day break?; 66- Comic Foxx;

#### Down

1- Movable cupboard; 2- Go in again; 3-Mandioca; 4- Iridescent gemstone; 5- Scope; 6- Nope; 7- Chew; 8- Unstated; 9- Minor, in law; 10- Treatment of disease; 11- Eight-time Norris Trophy winner; 12- "Sister Act" extra;



14- Residence; 20- Man of morals; 25- Course list?; 26- Asian holiday; 27- Farm female; 29- \_\_\_\_\_boyl; 30-Greek epic poem; 33- National U.S. cemetery; 34- Rorshach's "spill"; 36- \_\_\_\_ Camera; 37- Yoga posture; 38-Essen exclamation; 39- Driver's aid; 40- Willingly; 43- Say again; 44- Went in; 45- Saturated; 47- Quantity; 48-Mr. Moto portrayer; 50- Noblemen; 51- Civil rights org.; 55- Annapolis sch.; 56- At hand; 57- Haberdashery item; 58- Part of ETA;

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# **GET INVOLVED**

There are MANY ways you can get involved with this awesome online publication! We hope to hear from you.

# **BUSINESS ADS**

Any and all businessess, organizations and entrepreneurs are welcome to sumbit a business ad for free. \*Ads must be refreshed periodically. Once an add is out of date or stale, we will remove it.\*

# FOR A FULL-PAGE PLACEMENT

Donate a product or service for giveaway through the Valley Voice. Help us give back to the readers and we will help place you. Though, we will likely reserve this to one per issue. Businesses can choose to host more than one giveaway through Valley Voices to obtain additional feature pages.



# FOR A FULL-PAGE FOOD WRITE UP TO GET ON THE COVER

We will ask you to provide the meal set you want tasted, at no charge, to our public food writer. (One of the front facing volunteer positions through the Valley Voice where anonymity is not always possible.) You will be notified when to expect the critic and they will introduce themselves. Once the meal has been completed, you can expect a fullpage review, complete with photography of your food, to appear in a future issue. This one is really easy... take the best photo. If the best photo has been submitted by a business, it's the business who will be credited on the front page.

# BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

We are always looking for content curators, liaisons, photographers, and promoters.

Want to get involved?

Email us at <u>news@thevoicecv.ca</u>

## VISIT US ONLINE thevoicecv.ca

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